

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.-139. (Canceled)

140. (New) A composition comprising

a conjugate of hyaluronic acid and a linking molecule that is a substrate of transglutaminase, wherein the linking molecule is at least two contiguous aliphatic amines or two contiguous carboxamides, wherein the aliphatic amines are lysine or a derivative of lysine, and wherein the carboxamides are glutamine or a derivatives of glutamine, and

free hyaluronic acid, wherein the molar ratio of free hyaluronic acid to conjugate is at least 2.

141. (New) The composition of claim 140, wherein the linking molecule is native polylysine.

142. (New) The composition of claim 140, wherein the linking molecule is native polyglutamine.

143. (New) The composition of claim 140, wherein linking molecule is at least five contiguous aliphatic amines or five contiguous carboxamides.

144. (New) The composition of claim 140, wherein the linking molecule is lysine or a derivative of lysine, and wherein the conjugate has a negative charge to positive charge ratio of greater than 1.0.

145. (New) The composition of claim 140, wherein the conjugate has a weight ratio of hyaluronic acid to the conjugate of at least 90%.

146. (New) The composition of claim 140, further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

147. (New) A pharmaceutical composition for treating dry eye or dry mouth comprising an effective amount of hyaluronic acid covalently linked to a linking molecule that is a substrate of transglutaminase, wherein the linking molecule is at least two contiguous aliphatic amines or two contiguous carboxamides, wherein the aliphatic amines are lysine or a derivative of lysine, and wherein the carboxamides are glutamine or a derivatives of glutamine, wherein the linking molecule is uncomplexed, and
a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

148. (New) The composition of claim 147, wherein the linking molecule is native polylysine.

149. (New) The composition of claim 147, wherein the linking molecule is native polyglutamine.

150. (New) The composition of claim 147, wherein linking molecule is at least five contiguous aliphatic amines or five contiguous carboxamides.

151. (New) The composition of claim 147, wherein the linking molecule is lysine or a derivative of lysine, and wherein the conjugate has a negative charge to positive charge ratio of greater than 1.0.

152. (New) The composition of claim 147, wherein the conjugate has a weight ratio of hyaluronic acid to the conjugate of at least 90%.

153. (New) The composition of claim 147, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier comprises an ophthalmic preservative.

154. (New) A product comprising

An eye dropper bottle containing:

a conjugate of hyaluronic acid and a to a linking molecule that is a substrate of transglutaminase, wherein the linking molecule is at least two contiguous aliphatic amines or two contiguous carboxamides, wherein the aliphatic amines are lysine or a derivative of lysine, and wherein the carboxamides are glutamine or a derivatives of glutamine, wherein the linking molecule is uncomplexed, and

a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

155. (New) The composition of claim 154, wherein the linking molecule is native polylysine.

156. (New) The composition of claim 154, wherein the linking molecule is native polyglutamine.

157. (New) The composition of claim 154, wherein linking molecule is at least five contiguous aliphatic amines or five contiguous carboxamides.

158. (New) The composition of claim 154, wherein the linking molecule is lysine or a derivative of lysine, and wherein the conjugate has a negative charge to positive charge ratio of greater than 1.0.

159. (New) The composition of claim 154, wherein the conjugate has a weight ratio of hyaluronic acid to the conjugate of at least 90%.